

Form PTO-1390 (Rev. 10-97)		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 17762-304 (f295100)	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				US APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	
				09/486629	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  PCT/AU99/00751		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  10 September 1999		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  11 September 1998	
TITLE OF THE INVENTION  TABLE OR COUNTER MAT					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US  STEPHEN ROBERT CARKEEK					
Applicant hereby submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is the <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limits set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))</li> </ol>					

007629 007629 007629

10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5).

**Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:**

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.  
 12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.  
 13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.  
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.  
 14. ☐ A substitute specification.  
 15. ☒ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.  
 16. ☒ Other items or information: Return Postcard  
 2 Verified Statements

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:

**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1)-(5))**

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$840.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO  
(37 CFR 1.482).....\$670.00

No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO  
(37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))  
paid to USPTO.....\$760.00

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)  
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to  
USPTO.....\$970.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO  
(37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of  
PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$96.00

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later  
than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority  
date (37 CFR 1.492(e))

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	19 - 20 =		X \$18.00
Independent claims	2 - 3 =		X \$78.00
Multiple Dependent Claim(s) (If applicable)			X \$260.00

**TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$970.00**

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified  
Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27,  
1.28) **\$485.00**

**SUBTOTAL = \$485.00**

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation  
later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed  
priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +

**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$485.00**

**CALCULATIONS (PTO USE ONLY)**

\$970.00

\$-0-

\$-0-

\$-0-

\$-0-

\$970.00

\$485.00

\$485.00

\$-0-

\$485.00

428 Rec'd PCT/PTO

01 MAR

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property +

**\$485.00**

**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =**

**Amount to be:**

**\$**

**refunded**

**charged**

\$

- a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees is enclosed
- b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. **15-0627** in the amount of \$485.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **15-0627**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Alan Kamrath  
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Signature

Alan Kamrath  
Name

Telephone: 612-607-7539

28,227  
Registration Number

09/486629

428 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 MAR 2000

<b>PCT</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL</b>

From:  
 Alan Kamrath  
 Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly  
 3300 Plaza VII  
 45 South Seventh Street  
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 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Applicant's or agent's file reference 17762-304 (f295100)	International Application No. PCT/AU99/00751
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Title of Invention: TABLE OR COUNTER MAT	Applicant: STEPHEN ROBERT CARKEEK
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EXPRESS MAIL Mailing Label Number: EM217202585US  
 Date of Deposit: March 1, 2000

I hereby certify that these papers and fee(s) are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Paper(s) Enclosed:

- ☒ Certificate of Express Mail
- ☒ Postcard
- ☒ Transmittal Letter Covering Filing under 35 USC 371
- ☒ U.S. Patent Application: 11 pages & 2 pages of FORMAL drawings
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ 2 Verified Statements Claiming Small Entity Status
- ☒ Declaration & Power of Attorney

By: 

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00760 00930400

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED ELECTED OFFICE

APPLICANT : Stephen Robert Carkeek  
APPLN. NO. : PCT/AU99/00751  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILING DATE : 10 September 1999  
TITLE : Table or Counter Mat  
FILE : 17762-304 (f295100)

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BOX PCT  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 5, line 1, cancel "any one of".

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Robert Carkeek

By



Alan Kamrath, Reg. No. 28,227

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Dated: March 1, 2000

2/PRX.

1

TABLE OR COUNTER MAT**Technical Field**

This invention relates to a table or counter mat that lies flat and is readily laundered.

The invention is particularly related to a device to protect and provide a functional non-slip

5 absorbent and message communication covering for hospitality bar tops although the invention is not limited to such use

**Background Art**

The product used by the hospitality industry, including hotels, clubs and restaurants for absorbing spilt liquids on bar tops is generally in the form of strips of cotton towelling.

10 Problems experienced by hotel operators with the towelling product is that it slips on the work surface. It also wrinkles, bunches up in an unsightly appearance and it presents an unstable surface where glasses may topple over, spilling the contents. Towelling tends to lose colour and shrink in the washing process, further detracting from its appearance and presentation of the bar.

15 In addition, when the towelling product carries a printed brand message, there is a loss of colour, shrinkage and creasing which greatly detracts from the brand image and diminishes the investment value for the brand owner.

It is also known to have floor mats which may have a rubber backing and a top tufted pile of some 2 or more centimetres or alternatively a plurality of upwardly extending rubber  
20 fingers. However, such articles are used as floor mats with the upper layer having a physical mode of operation of brushing dirt or mud or the like from soles of shoes and allowing the residue dirt to fall within the spaces between the fingers or tufts of carpet. In essence such a structure is like a form of an upturned brush and is not liquid absorbent or providing a stable surface. Such an article is therefore not practical or useable as table or counter mats.

## DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide a table or counter mat that overcomes one or more of the disadvantages of the prior art.

In accordance with the invention there is provided a table or counter mat having a  
5 composite sheet structure comprising a non-slip backing layer; a top liquid absorbent textile surface for resting cups mugs or glasses; and an intermediate stabilisation layer joining the backing layer to the textile surface wherein the resultant mat is absorbent and readily able to be laundered. The non-slip backing layer can be formed from rubber such as a nitrile rubber of less than 2 mm thick with a density of about 1000 grams per square metre. The  
10 intermediate stabilisation layer can comprise a heat curable material non-woven polyester curable at temperatures greater than 100°C and preferably at about 170°C and wherein the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

The textile surface of the table or counter mat can include a textile marking providing a print or advertising message viewable from above. This can be formed by a sublimation  
15 textile printing process as will be further detailed hereinafter. Preferably the sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

The top liquid absorbent textile surface can be formed from a polyester surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7 millimetres. Another embodiment has the top  
20 liquid absorbent textile surface formed from a tufted nylon cut pile surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 5 to 10 millimetres. However this textile surface receives its colour marking by an acid dye process.

The invention also provides a method of forming a table or counter mat including the steps of forming a nitrile rubber sheet material as a backing layer; forming an intermediate

layer of non-woven polyester fabric, forming a textile surface layer to form an upper layer; aligning all three layers and compressing the layered materials by a heated platen for a selected time duration, pressure and temperature settings to cure and bond the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer; wherein the resultant table or  
 5 counter mat lays flat and is able to stably support a glass or other similar liquid vessel with the table or counter mat liquid absorbent to absorb any spilled liquid.

The step of the curing and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer occurs preferably at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

10 The step of providing a sublimation printing process can be by using a screen printed or digital image print paper which carries the required design and placing on the upper textile layer surface of the bar runner blank with print face down and activating a heat platen to press the screen print or digital image print paper to the textile surface under a selected heat, pressure and time duration. Preferably both the curing and bonding of the nitrile rubber  
 15 backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C and the sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

In order that the invention is more readily understood, a particular embodiment thereof  
 20 will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a table or counter mat according to a first embodiment of the invention.



Figure 2 is a diagrammatic exploded constructional view of the table or counter mat of Figure 1.

### **BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION**

Referring to Figure 1, it can be seen that the table or counter mat of the invention can be a non-slip, loose lay bar runner comprising a rectangular strip of nitrile rubber backing, heat cured and moulded to a tufted cut pile textile fabric dyed to a plain colour or a printed design

Referring to Figure 2, it can be seen that the invention comprises three construction layers which are heat pressed and moulded together to form a homogeneous product for dimensional stability and to withstand a frequent laundry process

The top layer 1 is a textile surface which in one embodiment is a tufted synthetic yarn cut pile surface with a pile height of 6 mm, and pile weight of 620 grams per square meter, cut to a size blank required, generally 250 x 900 mm, but not limited to this size

The intermediate layer 2 is a spun bonded polyester non-woven primary fabric layer 110 grams per square meter, providing added stability and pile carrier.

The backing layer 3 is a nitrile rubber compound backing material 1 mm thickness, 1000 grams per square meter.

The textile surface 1 can be marked such as by sublimation printing so as to provide a message or logo viewable from the top surface 4 of the textile surface 1. Cut pile surface dyed to plain colours as required, or printed designs by heat transfer textile primary process.

### **Raw Material Contents**

Looking at the composition in more detail the backing layer comprises F2224 - nitrile rubber compound applied as the product back support with a 1 mm thickness of density 1000 grams per square metre. It is composed of mineral filler with carbon black reinforcing. Zinc

oxide and stearic acid activation together with ester plasticisation are used as understood in the field. Phenolic derived antidegradants are used. Also organic accelerators in combination with sulphur allow for conventional curing. Miscellaneous additives including resins and activators can be included

- 5        The nitrile rubber backing provides a non slip surface. The thickness of the backing aids the stability while still allowing ready laundering.

The primary supporting intermediate layer comprises 100% Polyester thermally bonded non-woven fabric with a weight density of 110 gram per m<sup>2</sup> and tensile strength of 190 Newtons per 5 cm providing maximum elongation of 130% and tear strength of 140N.

- 10      Particular advantageous characteristics are dimensionally stable, high thermal stability, reduced flammability and ensures the product always lays flat

With the top textile surface there is a choice of:

- a)      Polyester fibre needlefelt, polyester scrim supported, high density heavy duty needled 500 grams per metre<sup>2</sup>, heat set, and laser cut to required size. This product is the preferred  
15      textile surface for brand message printing, offering print clarity and colour fastness to I.S.O., British and Australian standards.
- b)      Tufted polyester cut pile surface with a pile height of 5-6 mm, pile weight of 600-620 grams per metre<sup>2</sup>, knife cut to required size. This surface is suitable for brand message printing, colour fast to I.S.O , British and Australian standards.
- 20      c)      Tufted nylon cut pile surface, with a pile height of 5-6 mm, pile weight of 600 grams per metre<sup>2</sup>, which can be knife cut to required size. This surface is suitable for acid dye for solid plain colours, which are colour fast to I S O , British and Australian standards.

### **Manufacturing Process**

Selected textile surface is laser cut in the case of needlefelt material, or knife cut in case of tufted polyester or nylon surface material to the required blank shape and size, generally 250 x 900 mm, but not limited to this size. The blanks are stored on a holding table  
5 behind the rubber process line for the operator to lay up.

Uncured nitrile rubber is cut into required length strips from a continuous roll as received from the rubber supplier. The nitrile rubber strips are laid in parallel across the width of a Teflon<sup>TM</sup> continuous carrier belt on the rubber process line. The selected textile blank and the primary support layer are laid in position onto the uncured nitrile rubber to allow for  
10 a minimum of a 2 cm border of the rubber to be visible on either side of the textile blank. Product identification labels are positioned beneath the rubber on the Teflon<sup>TM</sup> belt to be cured to the back of each product.

The layed up batch of uncured nitrile rubber and textile blanks are advanced on the belt into the heat zone of the press over a heated platen. A press head is activated to  
15 compress the layed up materials to the heated platen for a selected time duration, pressure and temperature settings to cure and bond the nitrile rubber backing to the primary carrier and textile top. Settings applied to cure and bond a 1 mm thick nitrile rubber compound to the textile material are 170° for three minutes at 75 pounds per square inch. Following the selected time duration the press head raises, and releases the cured materials, for the belt  
20 drive to advance clear of the heated platen area, drawing in the following uncured layed up materials for the cure process to recur. This process is repeated continuously for each layed up batch of materials.

Once the materials are clear of the heat press they are cooled, taken from the carrier belt and stacked to be edge trimmed by a guillotine operator. Following the trim process the

bar runner product in its finished blank form is passed to a textile sublimation printer where the end finish requires a printed design on the product. In the case of a plain dyed colour finish, the product is passed to the dye house to be vat dyed.

### **Sublimation Print Process**

5        A computer generated design is output with film colour separations, to be exposed on screens, which in turn are used to screen print sublimation dyes of the design onto transfer print papers for volume repeat prints. Short run and strike off print designs are output from the design computer to a digital image printer employing sublimation dyes for exact image transfer.

10        The finished nitrile rubber blank table or counter mat are placed on the bed of the sublimation print machine, a screen printed or digital image print paper which carries the required design, is placed on the textile surface of the table or counter mat blank, dye face down. A heat platen is activated pressing the print paper to the textile surface under a selected heat, pressure and time duration. This process sublimates the dye turning it into a  
15        gas which is transferred into the textile fibre, resulting in a mirror image of the screen-print design on to the textile surface of the table or counter mat.

On release from the press, the spent print paper is removed, leaving the finished design to be cooled and stored for packing and dispatch.

20        The above descriptions are of preferred embodiments of the invention and are provided as illustration and not limitation of the invention. Clearly persons skilled in the art would understand variations of the described invention without any inventive step and these are included within the scope of the invention as defined in the claims.

## CLAIMS

1. A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure comprising a non-slip backing layer; a top liquid absorbent textile surface for resting cups, mugs or glasses; and an intermediate stabilisation layer joining the backing layer to the textile surface wherein the resultant mat is absorbent and readily able to be laundered
2. A table or counter mat according to claim 1 wherein the non-slip backing layer is formed from rubber.
3. A table or counter mat according to claim 2 wherein the non-slip backing layer is formed from a nitrile rubber
4. A table or counter mat according to claim 3 wherein the nitrile rubber is in the range of less than 2 mm thick with a density of about 1000 grams per square metre.
5. A table or counter mat according to any one of claim 3 wherein the intermediate stabilisation layer comprises a heat curable material curable at temperatures greater than 100°C and preferably at about 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.
6. A table or counter mat according to claim 5 wherein the intermediate layer is formed from a non-woven polyester
7. A table or counter mat according to claim 6 wherein the non-woven polyester has a density of about 450 to 650 grams per square metre.
8. A table or counter mat according to claim 5 wherein the textile surface includes a textile marking providing a colouring or a print or advertising message viewable from above.
9. A table or counter mat according to claim 8 wherein the textile marking is formed by a sublimation textile printing process

10. A table or counter mat according to claim 9 wherein the sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.
11. A table or counter mat according to claim 10 wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a polyester surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7 millimetres..
12. A table or counter mat according to claim 8 wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a tufted nylon cut pile surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 5 to 10 millimetres.
- 10 13. A table or counter mat according to claim 12 wherein the textile surface has a density of about 600 grams per square metre.
14. A table or counter mat according to claim 13 wherein the textile marking is formed by an acid dye process.
15. A table or counter mat according to claim 14 wherein the dye process occurs such that  
15 the mat is able to be laundered in hot water
16. A method of forming a table or counter mat including the steps of:
- a) forming a nitrile rubber sheet material as a backing layer;
  - b) forming an intermediate layer of non-woven polyester fabric;
  - c) forming a textile surface layer to form an upper layer;
  - 20 d) aligning all three layers and compressing the layed up materials by a heated platen for a selected time duration, pressure and temperature settings to cure and bond the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer,

wherein the resultant table or counter mat lays flat and is able to support stably a glass or other similar liquid vessel with the table or counter mat liquid absorbent to absorb any spilled liquid.

17. A method of forming a table or counter mat according to claim 16 wherein the curing  
5 and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

18. A method of forming a table or counter mat according to claim 16 including the step of  
10 providing a sublimation printing process by using a screen printed or digital image print paper which carries the required design and placing on the upper textile layer surface of the bar runner blank with print face down and activating a heat platen to press the screen print or digital image print paper to the textile surface under a selected heat, pressure and time duration.

19. A method of forming a table or counter mat according to claim 18 wherein the curing  
15 and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C and the sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

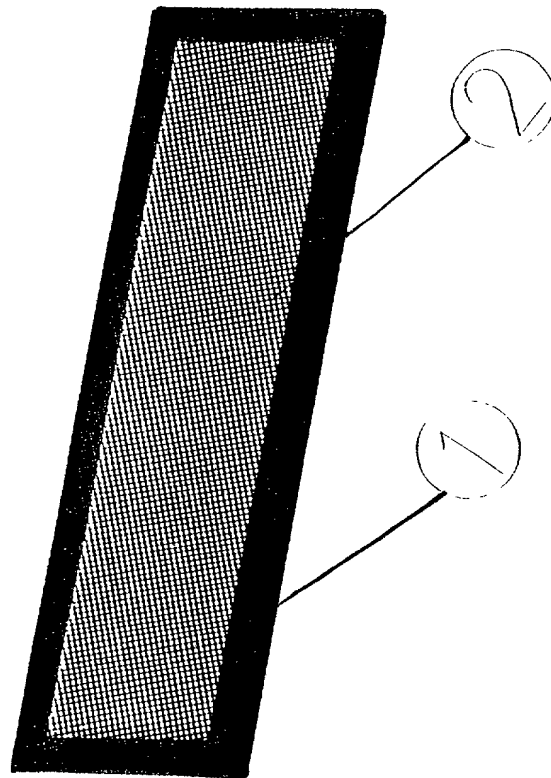
## ABSTRACT

A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure comprising a non-slip backing layer 3; a top liquid absorbent textile surface 1 for resting cups, mugs or glasses; and an intermediate stabilisation layer 2 joining the backing layer 3 to the textile surface 1 wherein the resultant mat is absorbent and readily able to be laundered. The invention also provides a method of forming the table or counter mat by curing and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing layer 3 to the intermediate layer 2 and upper polyester textile layer 1 at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C and a sublimation printing 4 for printing on the textile layer 1 occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.



1/2

FIG. 1



2/2

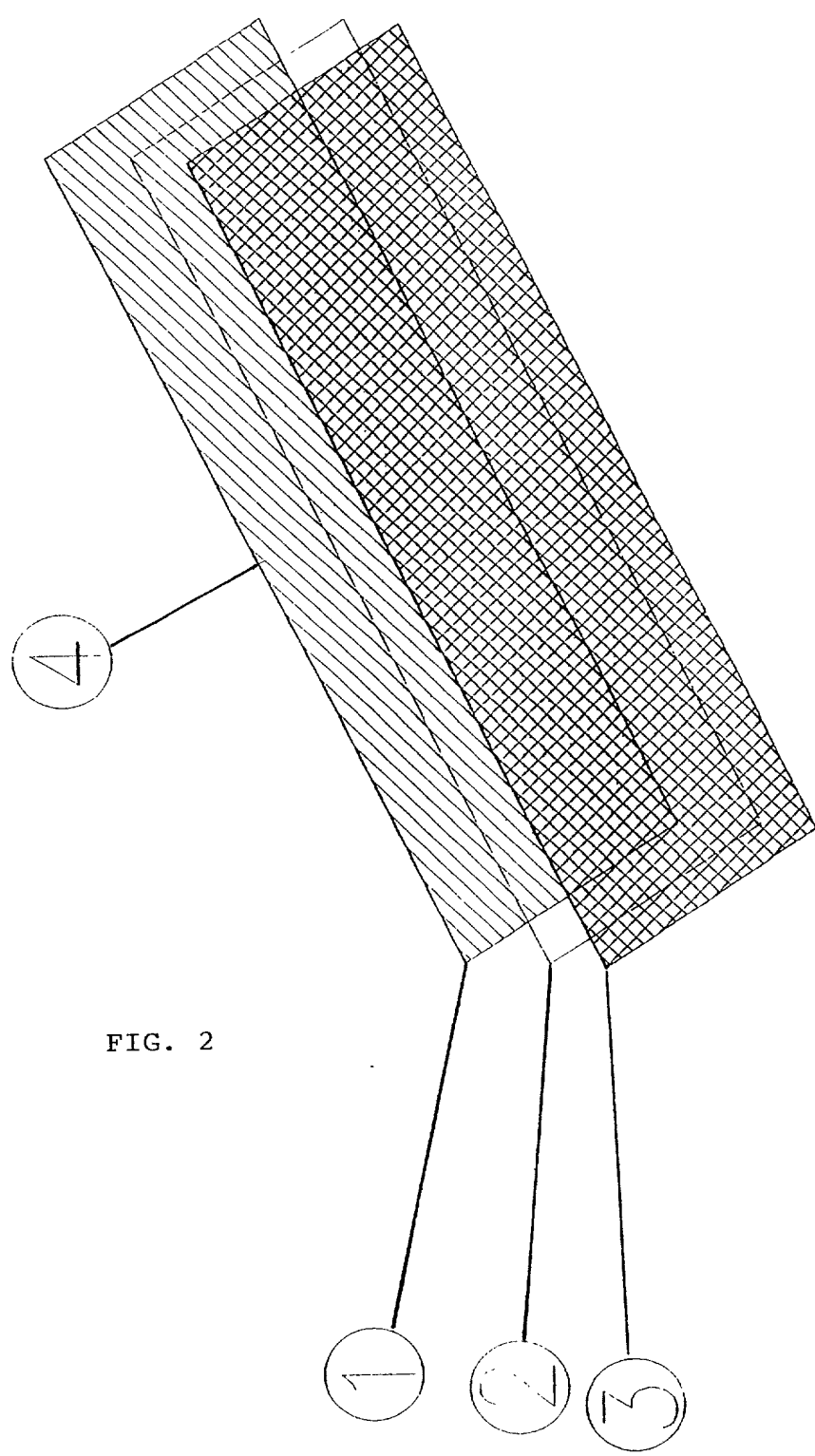


FIG. 2

As a below named inventor, I declare that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at Item 201 below, or a joint inventor if plural names are listed below at Items 201 et seq., of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: .....

## TABLE OR COUNTER MAT

☒ the attached specification ☐ the specification in application Serial No. .... filed ..... which is described and claimed in:  
(for declaration not accompanying application papers)

and (if applicable) amended on .....  
☐ international (PCT) application No. .... filed ..... and as amended on ..... (if any).

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim the benefit of priority, under Title 35, United States Code, § 119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed in Item 103 below and have also identified in Item 103 below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed.

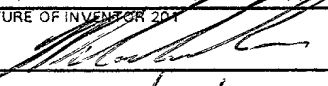
I hereby claim the benefit, under Title 35, United States Code, § 120, of any U.S. application(s) listed in Item 105 below. If this application is a continuation-in-part, insofar as the subject matter of any of the claims thereof is not disclosed in the prior U.S. application(s) identified in Item 105 below in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior U.S. application(s) identified in Item 105 below and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED WITHIN 12 (6 if a Design) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THIS APPLICATION			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119
Australia	84182/98	11 September 1998	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED MORE THAN 12 (6 if a Design) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THIS APPLICATION			
1 THIS APPLICATION IS A :		SERIAL NO.	FILED
0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTINUATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUATION-IN-PART	PCT/AU99/00751	10 September 1999
5 <input type="checkbox"/> DIVISION	<input type="checkbox"/> OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> ABANDONED	<input type="checkbox"/> PENDING <input type="checkbox"/> PATENTED

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_ to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence and telephone inquiries be sent to \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
1 CARKEEK		Stephen	Robert	
2 RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY OR OTHER LOCATION	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
1 Hawthorn		Australia	Australia AUX	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
13 Hall Street		Hawthorn	Australia	3123
FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
2				
2 RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY OR OTHER LOCATION	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
2				
2 RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY OR OTHER LOCATION	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203
		
DATE 18/02/2000	DATE	DATE

Applicant or Patentee: Stephen Robert Carkeek Attorney's  
Serial or Patent No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed or Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
For: Table or Counter Mat

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (c)) — SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

- ☒ the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
☐ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Jayfield Pty Ltd  
ADDRESS OF CONCERN 2nd Floor, 181 Fitzroy Street,  
St Kilda, Victoria 3182, Australia

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9 (d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled TABLE OR COUNTER MAT by inventor(s) described in \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ the specification filed herewith  
☐ application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME Stephen Robert Carkeek  
ADDRESS 13 Hall Street, Hawthorn, Victoria 3123, Australia  
☒ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Stephen Robert Carkeek  
TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 13 HALL STREET, HAWTHORN, VICTORIA 3123  
AUSTRALIA

SIGNATURE [Signature] DATE 18/02/2000

Applicant or Patentee: Stephen Robert Carkeek Attorney's  
Serial or Patent No. : \_\_\_\_\_ Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed or Issued : \_\_\_\_\_  
For : Table or Counter Mat

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention, entitled  
TABLE OR COUNTER MAT

described in

[ ☒ ] the specification filed herewith  
[ ] application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

[ ] no such person, concern, or organization  
[ ☒ ] persons, concerns or organizations listed below \*

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME Jayfield Pty Ltd  
ADDRESS 2nd Floor, 181 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, Victoria 3182, Australia  
[ ] INDIVIDUAL [ ☒ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] INDIVIDUAL [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

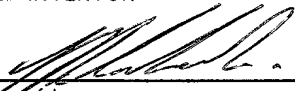
FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] INDIVIDUAL [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

ROBERT S CARKEEK

NAME OF INVENTOR NAME OF INVENTOR NAME OF INVENTOR

  
Signature of Inventor Signature of Inventor Signature of Inventor

18/02/2000  
Date Date Date